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ER 7-9710

File

29 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT: Congressional Contacts

1. This memorandum suggests action on the part of the DCI. Such requested action is contained in paragraph 2.

2. I believe it is important that the Director contact Congressmen Francis E. Walter (D., Pa.) and John W. McCormack (D., Mass.) at an early date, either through a visit to them at their offices or through an invitation by telephone to visit him here for luncheon or for a meeting. The reasons are indicated in the following paragraphs.

Congressman Walter. Mr. Walter's position of prestige and influence in the Congress is well-known to the Director. His attitude is of immediate interest to CIA in that he is the most powerful member of the House on all immigration matters, many of which concern us directly. At this time, Agency relationships with Mr. Walter are not good. He has taken the position that he will not sponsor any private bills in which we are interested, and is generally reluctant to cooperate with us on concurrent resolutions regarding refugees, etc. This problem is going to become more acute in the immediate future. Senator Eastland is certain to succeed Senator Kilgore as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which automatically means that our relationships with that Committee will become less cordial than in the past.

Congressman Walter is a good friend and admirer of the Director personally, and I am sure that a meeting would be most helpful to the Agency. The Director might suggest such a meeting to discuss Mr. Walter's recent trip through the Far East, where he looked into the refugee problem in Hong Kong.

Congressman McCormack. Mr. McCormack is the House Majority Leader, and as such will have an important voice in all

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legislative matters in which we are interested, including the joint resolution problem.

He has recently submitted a bill on the bomb damage in Italy. He is very much interested in the activities of CIA, and is a personal admirer of the Director. He appreciates being "let in on things," and I am sure he would readily accept an invitation to come down and discuss the world situation with the Director.

STATINTI

Legislative Counsel

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